MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE POLICY, FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD AT CIVIC SUITE 2, BROCKS HILL COUNCIL OFFICES, WASHBROOK LANE, OADBY, LEICESTER, LE2 5JJ ON TUESDAY, 26 MARCH 2024 COMMENCING AT 7.07 PM

PRESENT

I K Ridley Chair F S Broadley Vice-Chair

COUNCILLORS Meeting ID: 2605

N Alam

L A Bentley

G A Boulter

J K Ford

D A Gamble

C S Gore

S Z Haq

G G Hunt

P Joshi

J Kaufman

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

J Carr Planning Policy and Development Manager

C Eyre Housing Manager

D M Gill Head of Law & Democracy / Monitoring Officer

D Proctor Finance Manager

A Thorpe Head of Built Environment
C Werra Revenue and Benefits Manager

S Wheeliker Senior Democratic & Electoral Services Officer

53. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillors M L Darr and K J Loydall.

54. APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTES

None.

55. <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u>

None.

56. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

By affirmation of the meeting, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday, 6 February 2024 be taken as read, confirmed and approved.

Policy, Finance & Development Committee

Tuesday, 26 March 2024, 7.00 pm

Printed and published by Democratic Services, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, Brocks Hill Council Offices, Washbrook Lane, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5JJ

57. ACTION LIST ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

None.

58. <u>PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS</u>

None.

59. COLLECTION AND WRITE-OFF OF MISCELLANEOUS DEBTORS (2023/24)

The Committee gave consideration to the report (as set out at pages 2-7 of the agenda update), which sought approval to write off debts above £10,000 and gave an update on the status of debts written off under delegated powers.

It was moved by Councillor L A Bentley, seconded by Councillor G G Hunt, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

The contents of the report be noted and the Non-Domestic Rates and Housing Benefit Overpayment write-offs that are above £10,000 be approved.

60. CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL TAX CHARGES ON EMPTY PROPERTY POLICY (2024)

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendices (as set out at pages 8 – 19 of the agenda reports pack), which sought the Committee's approval to update the Council Tax Charges on Empty Property Policy to include Council Tax premiums for Second Homes.

It was moved by Councillor C S Gore, seconded by Councillor N Alam, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- i) The amendments to the Council Tax Charges on Empty Property Policy (as set out at Appendix 1) be approved; and
- ii) The option at 3.1.2 to apply the second homes premium 12 months after the property becomes unoccupied to bring it in line with the longterm empty premium be approved.

61. <u>UPDATED DISCRETIONARY PAYMENTS POLICY (2024/25)</u>

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendices (as set out at pages 20 – 37 of the agenda reports pack), which sought the Committee's approval of the updated Discretionary Payments Policy (2024/25).

It was moved by Councillor L A Bentley, seconded by the Chair, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- i) The contents of the report and appendices be noted; and
- ii) The Discretionary Payments Policy (2024/25) (as set out at Appendix 1) be approved.

62. <u>NEW LOCAL PLAN REGULATION 18B CONSULTATION DRAFT (PREFERRED OPTIONS)</u>

Policy, Finance & Development Committee

Printed and published by Democratic Services, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, Brocks Hill Council Offices, Washbrook Lane, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5JJ The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendices (as set out at pages 38 – 250 of the agenda reports pack), which sought the Committee's approval to publicly consult on the emerging draft New Local Plan Preferred Options document for a 6-week period.

It was moved by the Chair, seconded by Councillor L A Bentley, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

i) The emerging draft New Local Plan Preferred Options document be approved for the purposes of public consultation commencing on Wednesday, 3 April 2024 for a 6-week period.

63. REVISED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (SPRING 2024)

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendix (as set out at pages 251 – 267 of the agenda reports pack), which sought the Committee's approval for the adoption of the revised Local Development Scheme as the Council's most up to date Local Development Scheme.

It was moved by Councillor S Z Haq, seconded by Councillor L A Bentley, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

i) The Local Development Scheme (Spring 2024) be approved.

64. STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (2024)

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendices (as set out at pages 268 – 310 of the agenda reports pack), which highlighted the comments received during the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) public consultation and how they were taken into account in the final SCI.

It was moved by Councillor S Z Haq, seconded by Councillor L A Bentley, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

The Statement of Community Involvement (as set out at Appendix 1) be approved for adoption.

65. STANDARDS & ETHICAL INDICATORS (Q3 2023/24)

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendix (as set out at pages 311 – 321 of the agenda reports pack), which provided the figures for local determination of complaints and ethical indicators for Q3 2023/24.

By general affirmation of the meeting, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

The content of the report and appendix be noted.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.00 pm